

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 489  
By Cochran

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Lt. Colonel Mark Cooter on receiving the Air Force Aerial Achievement Medal.

WHEREAS, it is the great pleasure of this General Assembly to honor and salute those members of our armed forces who, through their patriotism and diligence, have distinguished themselves as exceptional leaders in the military; and

WHEREAS, Lt. Colonel Mark A. Cooter, USAF is one such estimable individual, having recently been decorated with the Air Force Aerial Achievement Medal; and

WHEREAS, this medal is awarded to aircrew members who demonstrate acts of merit, exceptional performance, or outstanding airmanship during sustained operational activities; and

WHEREAS, Lt. Colonel Cooter earned this award while serving with Detachment One, Expeditionary Air Intelligence Squadron as the mission commander of the unmanned MQ-1B Predator in support of Operation Enduring Freedom; and

WHEREAS, he served as the commander for 10 combat tactical sorties, totaling more than 40 flight hours; he provided superior command and control during multiple air strikes, and

his devotion, tenacity, and meticulous attention to detail directly contributed to the squadron making Air Force and aerospace history; and

WHEREAS, a native of Elizabethton, Lt. Colonel Cooter graduated from East Tennessee State University and earned a Master's Degree from Webster University; and

WHEREAS, currently the commander of the 547<sup>th</sup> Intelligence Squadron at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada, Lt. Colonel Cooter has 18 years of military service; and

WHEREAS, in this time of great global turmoil, military officers such as Lt. Colonel Mark Cooter provide the blanket of freedom and security that surrounds us all and protects us from harm; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should pay tribute to Lt. Colonel Cooter for his patriotism, valor, and exemplary service to this country; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we congratulate Lt. Colonel Mark Cooter on being awarded the Air Force Aerial Achievement Medal, salute his patriotism, expertise, and diligence in service of Operation Enduring Freedom, and wish him the best in his every future endeavor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.